



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/508,942	10/01/2004	Mi-Sun Sung	MUHAN1.001APC	7555

20995 7590 12/10/2009
KNOBBE MARTENS OLSON & BEAR LLP
2040 MAIN STREET
FOURTEENTH FLOOR
IRVINE, CA 92614

EXAMINER

ZIEGLE, STEPHANIE M

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

3684

NOTIFICATION DATE	DELIVERY MODE
-------------------	---------------

12/10/2009

ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

jcartee@kmob.com
eOAPilot@kmob.com

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/508,942	Applicant(s) SUNG, MI-SUN	
	Examiner STEPHANIE ZIEGLE	Art Unit 3684	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 25 September 2009.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 18-36,41 and 42 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 18-36,41 and 42 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 25 February 2008 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 25 September 2009 has been entered.

Status of Claims

2. This action is in reply to the RCE filed on 25 September 2009.
3. Claims 25, 32, and 41 have been amended.
4. Claims 1-17 and 37-40 have been canceled.
5. Claims 18-36 and 41-42 are currently pending and have been examined.

Response to Arguments

6. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.
7. With regard to Applicant's attempted traversal of Examiner's Official Notice, Examiner directs Applicant's attention to MPEP §2144.03(C). Applicant's attempted traversal is inadequate because Applicant neither specifically points out the supposed errors in Examiner's official notice nor why Applicant believes Examiner is in error. Merely stating that the statement is wrong or that the applicant believes that it does not cure the deficiencies of the references does not constitute a proper traversal of the Examiner's Official Notice. Therefore, the statements of Official Notice stand as admitted prior art.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

8. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.
9. The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:
 1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
 2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
 3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
 4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.
10. Claims 18-24, 26, and 30-31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Walker et al (US 6,330,544), hereinafter Walker in view of Loeb et al (US 6,006,205), hereinafter Loeb, in view of Van Dusen (US 6,175,823) in further view of Barbara et al (US 2002/0016769), hereinafter Barbara.

Claim 18:

Walker, as shown, discloses the following limitations:

- *subsequent to receiving the request, establishing by the computer system, a gift certificate use limit in an amount of the monetary value within the credit card account;*[See at least claim 1 limitations 2-3]
- *subsequent to approving at least some of the transactions, computing, by the computer system, a total charge amount to be charged to an owner of the credit card account for the plurality of transactions, wherein the total charge amount is computed based on applying at least some of the gift certificate use limit to charges associated with one or more transaction approved for the credit card account. [See at least column 9 lines 23-40]*

Walker does not disclose the following limitation. Loeb, however, does disclose:

- *approving a plurality of transactions using at least one credit card associated with the credit card account, the plurality of transactions totaling a total transaction amount;*
[See at least Figure 9 item number 930 and related text]

It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to combine the gift certificate of Walker with the transaction of Loeb because it quickly and easily enables a customer to utilize a gift received to purchases goods and services. The combination of Walker and Loeb does not disclose the following. Van Dusen, however, does disclose:

- *receiving, by a computer system of the financial institution, a request for registering approval a gift certificate in a pre-existing credit card account such that a monetary value of the Gift certificate is established as a gift certificate use limit within the pre-existing credit card account. [See at least the abstract and Figures 2-3 and related text]*

It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to combine the gift certificate and transaction system of Walker and Loeb with the registering step of Van

Art Unit: 3684

Dusen because it easily, quickly, and conveniently allows a user to redeem and use or retain the value of the gift without the risk of loss. The combination of Walker, Loeb, and Van Dusen, does not disclose that the gift certificate is registered within a pre-existing credit card account. Barbara, however in at least paragraph 0057 discloses the recipient applying the gift as a credit within a pre-existing credit card account. It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to combine the gift certificate and transaction systems of Walker, Loeb, and Van Dusen with the pre-existing credit card account because it allows an individual to have quick and easy access to the gift without having the need to carry anything extra.

Claim 19:

The combination of Walker, Loeb, Van Dusen, and Barbara, as shown in the rejection above, discloses all of the limitations of claim 18. Walker also discloses the following:

- *the monetary value is used to make the total charge amount smaller than the total transaction amount without regard to whether at least part of the plurality of transactions has been made with the gift certificate issuer or merchants affiliated with the gift certificate issuer.* [See at least column 9 lines 23-40]

Claim 20:

The combination of Walker, Loeb, Van Dusen, and Barbara, as shown in the rejection above, discloses all of the limitations of claim 18. Walker also discloses the following:

- *computing the monetary value is used up first.* [See at least column 9 lines 23-40]

Art Unit: 3684

Claim 21:

The combination of Walker, Loeb, Van Dusen, and Barbara, as shown in the rejection above, discloses all of the limitations of claim 18. Walker also discloses the following:

- *the total charge amount for the plurality of transactions is the total transaction amount less the monetary value in case the total transaction amount is greater than the monetary value.* [See at least column 9 lines 23-40]

Claim 22:

The combination of Walker, Loeb, Van Dusen, and Barbara, as shown in the rejection above, discloses all of the limitations of claim 21. Walker also discloses the following:

- *subsequent to computing, resetting the gift certificate use limit to zero.* [See at least column 5 line 20 and column 9 lines 23-40 and column 17 lines 32-34]

Claim 23:

The combination of Walker, Loeb, Van Dusen, and Barbara, as shown in the rejection above, discloses all of the limitations of claim 18. Walker also discloses the following:

- *the total charge amount for the plurality of transactions is zero in case the total transaction amount is smaller than the monetary value.* [See at least column 9 lines 23-40]

Claim 24:

The combination of Walker, Loeb, Van Dusen, and Barbara, as shown in the rejection above, discloses all of the limitations of claim 23. Walker also discloses the following:

- *subsequent to computing, updating the gift certificate use limit to a residual amount that is the monetary value less the total transaction amount.* [See at least column 5 line 20]

Claim 26:

The combination of Walker, Loeb, Van Dusen, and Barbara, as shown in the rejection above, discloses all of the limitations of claim 18. Loeb also discloses the following:

- *generating a credit card account statement, which charges to the owner the total charge amount for the plurality of transactions and informs the owner that the total charge amount is smaller than the total transaction amount with use of the monetary value from the gift certificate.* [6,006,205: See at least column 8 lines 11-23]

It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to combine the gift certificate, transaction, and sub-account of Walker, Loeb, and Macklin with the account statement of Loeb because it easily enables the customer to visualize the charges made to an account at the close of the transaction period as well as it enables the customer to quickly make a payment to their account.

Claim 30:

The combination of Walker, Loeb, Van Dusen, and Barbara, as shown in the rejection above, discloses all of the limitations of claim 18. Walker also discloses the following:

- *wherein the request comprises information identifying the gift certificate, wherein the method further comprises verifying that the gift certificate is valid.* [See at least column 5 lines 9-38]

Claim 31:

The combination of Walker, Loeb, Van Dusen, and Barbara, as shown in the rejection above, discloses all of the limitations of claim 30. Walker also discloses the following:

- *verifying comprises communicating with a gift certificate database outside the financial institute.* [See at least Figure 2 item number 216 and column 17 lines 32-34]

11. Claims 25 and 41 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Walker in view of Loeb in view of Van Dusen in view of Barbara and in further view of The Sal Anthony Website Policy on Gift Certificates, hereinafter Sal.

Claim 25:

The combination of Walker, Loeb, Van Dusen, and Barbara, as shown in the rejection above, discloses all of the limitations of claim 18. Loeb also discloses the following:

- *Receiving by the computer system a request for funding of the residual amount* [See at least Column 2 line 18]

It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to combine the gift certificate, transaction, the gift certificate, and preexisting account of Walker, Loeb, Van Dusen and Barbara with the request for a refund of Loeb because it easily and conveniently enables the customer to utilize the remainder portion of the gift certificate no matter how much is left. The combination of Walker, Loeb, Van Dusen, and Barbara, does not disclose the following. Sal, however, does disclose:

- *funding the residual amount to the owner.* [See at least Sal Anthony's Policy on Gift Certificates]

It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to combine the gift certificate, transaction, the gift certificate, and preexisting account of Walker, Loeb, Van Dusen and Barbara with the refund of Sal because it easily and conveniently enables the customer to utilize the remainder portion of the gift certificate no matter how much is left.

Claim 41:

The combination of Walker, Loeb, Van Dusen, and Barbara, as shown in the rejection above, discloses all of the limitations of claim 18. Loeb also discloses the following:

- *upon request from an owner of the bank account.* [See at least Column 2 line 18]

Art Unit: 3684

It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to combine the gift certificate, transaction, the gift certificate, and preexisting account of Walker, Loeb, Van Dusen and Barbara with the request for a refund of Loeb because it easily and conveniently enables the customer to utilize the remainder portion of the gift certificate no matter how much is left. The combination of Walker, Loeb, Van Dusen, and Barbara does not disclose the following. Sal, however, does disclose:

- *subsequent to using at least part of the gift certificate use limit, funding a residual amount of the gift certificate use limit* [See at least Sal Anthony's Policy on Gift Certificates].

It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to combine the gift certificate, transaction, the gift certificate, and preexisting account of Walker, Loeb, Van Dusen and Barbara with the refund of Sal because it easily and conveniently enables the customer to utilize the remainder portion of the gift certificate no matter how much is left.

12. Claim 42 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Walker in view of Loeb in view of Van Dusen in view of Barbara in view of Blinn et al (US 7,155,411), hereinafter Blinn.

Claim 42:

The combination of Walker, Loeb, Van Dusen and Barbara, as shown in the rejection above, discloses all of the limitations of claim 18. The combination of Walker, Loeb, Van Dusen and Barbara does not disclose the following. Blinn, however, does disclose the following:

- *the computed total charge amount is the total transaction amount less the at least some of the gift certificate use limit.* [See at least Figures 8-9 and related text]

It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to combine the gift certificate, transaction, the gift certificate and preexisting account of Walker, Loeb, Van Dusen and Barbara with the charge amount of Blinn because it easily and quickly allows a customer to utilize multiple payment methods to make a purchase.

Art Unit: 3684

13. Claim 29 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Walker in view of Loeb in view of Van Dusen in view of Barbara in further view of Official Notice (now admitted prior art).

Claim 29:

The combination of Walker, Loeb, Van Dusen, and Barbara, as shown in the rejection above, discloses all of the limitations of claim 18. The combination of Walker, Loeb, Van Dusen, and Barbara does not disclose the following limitation.

- *sending, to a point of the first transaction, information indicating that the first amount is covered by the gift certificate use limit so as to include the information on a first receipt of the first transaction.*

However, the Examiner takes **Official Notice (now admitted prior art)** that it is old and well known in the transaction arts to print an updated balance on the transaction receipt. It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to combine the gift certificate, transaction, the gift certificate, and preexisting account of Walker, Loeb, Van Dusen and Barbara with the notification of the updated balance because it makes it simple and easy for a recipient to know when a gift has been made to them and to be fully aware of their new balance.

14. Claim 27 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Walker in view of Loeb in view of Van Dusen in view of Barbara and in further view of Xu (US 2003/0195840).

Claim 27:

The combination of Walker, Loeb, Van Dusen, and Barbara, as shown in the rejection above, discloses all of the limitations of claim 18. Loeb also discloses the following:

- *wherein the credit card account has a predetermined credit limit, [See at least Figure 4 item number 440 and related text]*

Art Unit: 3684

- *while the total transaction amount is equal to or smaller than the sum of the predetermined credit limit and the monetary value. [See at least column 8 lines 11-23]*

The combination of Walker, Loeb, Van Dusen, and Barbara does not disclose the following limitation. Xu, however, does disclose:

- *wherein approving the plurality of transactions results in that the total transaction amount exceeds the predetermined credit limit [See at least paragraph 0026]*

. It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to combine the gift certificate, transaction, the gift certificate, and preexisting account of Walker, Loeb, Van Dusen and Barbara with the exceeding the credit limit of Xu because it enables the customer to purchase their good or service in view of the temporarily increased limit, taking into account the increase due to the gift, rather than just the previously set credit limit.

15. Claim 28 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Walker in view of Loeb in view of Van Dusen in view of Barbara in view of Xu and in further view of Official Notice (now admitted prior art).

Claim 28:

The combination of Walker, Loeb, Van Dusen, Barbara and Xu as shown in the rejection above, discloses all of the limitations of claim 18. The combination of Walker, Loeb, Van Dusen, Barbara and Xu does not disclose the following limitation.

- *wherein the predetermined credit limit is equal to or higher than zero.*

However, the Examiner takes **Official Notice** that it is old and well known in the credit arts for the credit limit to be a positive value (above zero). . It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to combine the gift certificate, transaction, the gift certificate, and preexisting account of Walker, Loeb, Van Dusen and Barbara, and Xu with

having a positive credit limit because it keeps the credit providers in business and does not provide the customer with free money.

16. Claim 32 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Loeb in view of Van Dusen in view of Barbara.

Claim 32:

Loeb, as shown, discloses the following limitation:

- *Receiving by the computer system of the financial institution information identifying a pre-existing credit or bank card account at the financial institution, wherein the account is associated with at least one card for use in purchase transactions; [See at least Figure 9 item number 920 and related text]*

Loeb does not disclose the following. Van Dusen, however, does disclose:

- *receiving, by a computer system of the financial institution, a request for registering approval a gift certificate in a pre-existing credit card account such that a monetary value of the Gift certificate is established as a gift certificate use limit within the pre-existing credit card account. [See at least the abstract and Figures 2-3 and related text]*

It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to combine the gift certificate and transaction system of Walker and Loeb with the registering step of Van Dusen because it easily, quickly, and conveniently allows a user to redeem and use or retain the value of the gift without the risk of loss. The combination of Walker, Loeb, and Van Dusen, does not disclose that the gift certificate is registered within a pre-existing credit card account. Barbara, however in at least paragraph 0057 discloses the recipient applying the gift as a credit within a pre-existing credit card account. It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to combine the gift certificate and transaction systems of

Art Unit: 3684

Walker, Loeb, and Van Dusen with the pre-existing credit card account because it allows an individual to have quick and easy access to the gift without having the need to carry anything extra.

17. Claims 33-35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Loeb in view of Van Dusen in view of Barbara in further view of Walker.

Claim 33:

The combination of Loeb, Van Dusen, and Barbara, as shown in the rejection above, discloses all of the limitations of claim 32. Loeb also discloses the following:

- *receiving a request for approval of a first transaction using the card;* [See at least Figure 9 item numbers 910 and 920 and related text]
- *approving the first transaction; and*[See at least Figure 9 item number 930 and related text]

The combination of Loeb, Van Dusen, and Barbara, does not disclose the following. Walker, however, does disclose the following:

- *using at least part of the monetary value to pay for at least part of the transaction.*
[See at least column 9 lines 23-40]

It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to combine the gift certificate, transaction, and credit of Loeb, Van Dusen, and Barbara with the utilization of part of the gift certificate to pay for the transaction of Walker because it quickly and easily enables a customer to utilize a gift received to purchases goods and services.

Claim 34:

The combination of Loeb, Van Dusen, and Barbara, as shown in the rejection above, discloses all of the limitations of claim 32. Loeb also discloses the following:

- *approving a first transaction using the card in a first transaction amount; and* [See at least Figure 9 item number 930 and related text]

Art Unit: 3684

The combination of Loeb, Van Dusen, and Barbara, does not disclose the following. Walker, however, does disclose the following:

- *subsequent to approving, updating the gift certificate use limit to an amount smaller than the monetary value.* [See at least column 5 line 20]

It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to combine the gift certificate, transaction, and credit of Loeb, Van Dusen, and Barbara with the updating of Walker because it quickly and easily enables a customer to utilize a gift received to purchases goods and services while maintaining the useable balance of the gift.

Claim 35:

The combination of Loeb, Van Dusen, And Barbara, as shown in the rejection above, discloses all of the limitations of claim 32. Loeb also discloses the following:

- *approving a first transaction using the card in a first transaction amount; and* [See at least Figure 9 item number 930 and related text]

The combination of Loeb, Van Dusen, And Barbara, does not disclose the following. Walker, however, does disclose the following:

- *subsequent to approving, further updating the gift certificate use limit to a smaller amount.* [See at least column 5 line 20]

It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to combine the gift certificate, transaction, and credit of Loeb, Van Dusen, and Barbara with the updating of Walker because it quickly and easily enables a customer to utilize a gift received to purchases goods and services while maintaining the useable balance of the gift.

- 18.** Claim 36 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Loeb, Van Dusen, Barbara and Walker in view of Xu.

Claim 36:

The combination of Loeb, Van Dusen, Barbara and Walker, as shown in the rejection above, discloses all of the limitations of claim 35. Loeb also discloses the following:

- *wherein the credit card account has a predetermined credit limit, [See at least Figure 4 item number 440 and related text]*
- *while the accumulated total transaction amount is equal to or smaller than the sum of the predetermined credit limit and the monetary value. [See at least column 8 lines 11-23]*

The combination of Loeb, Van Dusen, Barbara and Walker does not disclose the following limitation. Xu, however, does disclose:

- *wherein approving the first transaction results in that an accumulated total transaction amount thus far including the first transaction amount exceeds the predetermined credit limit [See at least paragraph 0026]*

It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to combine the gift certificate, transaction, updating, and credit of Loeb, Van Dusen, Barbara and Walker with the exceeding the credit limit of Xu because it enables the customer to purchase their good or service in view of the temporarily increased limit, taking into account the increase due to the gift, rather than just the previously set credit limit.

Conclusion

19. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

- Sakai et al – US 2003/0004815: Business Procedure and Business Operation/Management Apparatus

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to **Stephanie M. Ziegler** whose telephone number is **571.272.4417**. The Examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 7:30am-4:00pm. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's supervisor, **KAMBIZ ABDI** can be reached at **571.272.6702**.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://portal.uspto.gov/external/portal/pair> <<http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at **866.217.9197** (toll-free).

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

or faxed to **571-273-8300**.

Hand delivered responses should be brought to the **United States Patent and Trademark Office Customer Service Window**:

Randolph Building

401 Dulany Street

Alexandria, VA 22314.

/Stephanie Ziegler/ Examiner, Art Unit 3692
04 December 2009

/Jennifer Liversedge/

Examiner, Art Unit 3684